

Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 5, 9, and 18 being the independent claims. Claims 9-20 have been amended as indicated above to now even more clearly claim Applicant's claimed invention. These changes are not believed to introduce any new matter.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

In the Action on page 9, claims 1-8 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing these claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action on pages 3-9, claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Using Microsoft Outlook '98" (hereinafter "Outlook"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant's amendments are believed to render moot the current rejection. Applicant's claims 9-20, as amended, set forth a system and computer readable medium that differ in several important ways from the applied reference, as discussed in detail below:

As amended, claim 9 recites, *inter alia*:

an electronic message system comprising:

a *user selectable* save message instruction operative to automatically store in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders, a user selected *previously received message*, wherein *said user selected user-assignable personal file folder is associated with a sender* of said previously received message, tagged by one of an email address or a username of the sender of said message.

Emphasis added. Outlook fails to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 9.

Outlook fails to teach or suggest a "user selectable save message instruction" for automatically storing a "previously received message," in a "user selected user-assignable personal file folder" "*associated with a sender.*" Instead, the folders and subfolders described in

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the Outlook reference are used to store messages as they are received, or sent, using a rule wizard. In contrast, the present invention includes a user-selectable instruction to store a previously received message, in a user-assignable personal file folder associated with a sender of the message, tagged by an email address of the sender of the message, where the previously received message is stored upon user selection of a save message instruction. The closest functionality to Applicant's "user selectable save message instruction" provided by Outlook is "Move to Folder" or "Organize" functions, both of which bring up a folder which was the *last accessed folder*. Unlike Outlook, Applicant's invention teaches a system to automatically store a previously received message, to a user selected user-assignable **personal file folder associated with the sender** of the message, tagged to the sender's username or email address. This feature advantageously may allow a user to quickly save received messages to the user-assignable folder associated with the sender of the previously received email. Thus, for a user's message system such as an email system, for each sender of emails, that user may select one of one or more personal file folders associated with that sender, and may select to *assign* that personal file folder *to that sender*. In so doing, the user may then file messages to that assigned personal file folder automatically, using, e.g., but not limited to, just a minimal number of clicks after the assignment of the personal file folder. Being able to assign a folder to a given sender allows easy and rapid future saving of messages from that sender. For example, after assigning a folder to a sender, then the user may move the message to the folder, by, e.g., a simple command, instruction, click of a user interface (UI) element such as a button. The present invention is much simpler than the convention process which requires dragging and dropping the message onto a particular folder within a hierarchical file folder user interface file manager. The present invention is also much simpler than a user's conventional browsing through a hierarchy of folders each time that the user receives a message from that sender, to try to find the folder associated with that sender, since now the folder has been assigned to the sender. Thus, the claimed invention of claim 9 is useful, it is novel over the conventional art, including the applied reference, and the feature is non-obvious by fulfilling a longfelt need of an easier way to organize and store messages

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received in a general inbox, as mentioned in the applied reference. Thus, claim 9 is patentable for at least the above reasons over the applied reference.

Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9, and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Claim 10 is also allowable since the applied reference fails to teach or suggest automatically storing "without the user having knowledge of a location in a file folder hierarchy" of a user-assignable personal file folder associated with the sender of the message. The present invention advantageously allows the user to save previously received mail to a personal file folder, without knowing the exact location of the user assignable personal file folder in the file folder hierarchy (see claim 10).

Claim 17 is also allowable for "obviating a need to drag and drop onto a folder" when rapidly storing previously received messages into user assignable folders "associated with the sender of the message." Applicant's invention allows a much faster way of moving mail into folders than dragging and dropping an email into a hierarchical file folder metaphor user interface (see claims 10 and 17).

Claim 12 is also allowable for automatically storing in a personal file folder associated with the sender, any received read receipt reports. Claim 13 also describes a dynamic, active read receipt report something not contemplated by the applied reference. Applicant's invention allows an automatic way of storing for later access read receipt reports (see claims 12 and 13). This advantageously decreases the number of emails in one's shared inbox.

As amended, claim 18 recites, *inter alia*:

A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a computing platform, cause said computing platform to perform operations comprising a method comprising:

receiving an user selected instruction to store a previously received message in a user selected one of one or more user assignable personal file folders associated with a sender of said previously received message, tagged by one of an email address or username of the sender of said message, wherein said instruction comprises at least one of a command and/or a user interface element; and

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storing in said folder, said message, *without the user having to know a location in a file folder hierarchy of said user-assignable personal file folder.*

Emphasis added. Outlook fails to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 18.

Claim 18 is allowable for similar reasons to claim 1, since the applied reference fails to teach or suggest a machine readable medium for performing a method of storing a previously received message, in response to a user selected instruction, in a user assignable personal file folder associated with a sender of the message. Claim 18 is also patentable for disclosing a feature for storing a message without the user having to know a location, in the file folder hierarchy, of a user assignable personal file folder associated with a sender. For at least these reasons, claim 18 is patentable.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ralph P. Albrecht, Reg. No. 43,466
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (703) 760-1681
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

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